

March 27, 2002

Clark County is working hard to provide vital services to our region by making new arrangements and forging new partnerships to share staff, space, and equipment among previously separate organizations. These changes are a response to a series of statewide initiatives and legislative actions that have reduced funding for local government over the last five years.

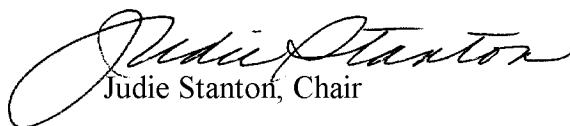
In keeping with this trend, Clark County and Southwest Washington Health District are planning to merge health district services into the county organization, to serve the public more efficiently. We are sending you this summary of the situation because this change is of great interest to many members of our community.

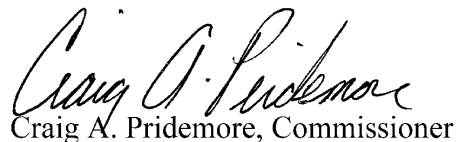
Throughout the transition, our top priority will be to ensure that citizens of Clark County receive superior service. We will also be working to achieve the greatest benefit from all funding that may be available for our local public health services. This will be a major challenge.

As with most large-scale changes, this process begins with a great deal of uncertainty for the people who are closest to the programs in question. However, a transition team representing the county and the health district is already at work to determine how to realign public health administration to minimize any disruption in services. At the same time, Skamania County will be working to address the public health needs of its citizens.

At the outset, we will focus on efficiencies to be gained by integrating support functions. In the end, we have every reason to believe that combining staff and other resources from both organizations will improve our ability to meet community needs in the creative spirit that our current economic environment requires.

Sincerely,

  
Judie Stanton, Chair

  
Craig A. Pridemore, Commissioner

  
Betty Sue Morris, Commissioner

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